

Experiments on animals with artificial fever, produced by injecting putrid fluids, showed no decided reduction of the temperature, and hence quebracho is probably not, as was supposed, an antipyretic. It should be added that it is not an antiseptic, but only temporarily retards putrefaction. The results obtained in actual cases of fever in men were also negative, but Dr. Penzoldt thinks that, considering the close chemical relationship between the alkaloid "aspidodermin" which Baeyer has extracted from quebracho-bark and quinine, the subject requires further working out in this direction.

By the accidental observation of a patient with pleurisy and emphysema, on whom the antifebrile effect of quebracho was being tried, Dr. Penzoldt was led to try the bark in various forms of dyspnoea, depending on emphysema, bronchitis, phthisis, pleurisy, etc., and obtained remarkably good results. A teaspoonful of the above-mentioned solution was given two or three times a day. The most marked objective phenomenon after its exhibition was a reddening of the previously cyanosed or livid tint of the lips and face. In a case of emphysema where the patient was blessed with a nose the seat of acne hypertrophica, the ordinary violet-blue colour of the organ became fiery red, and excited the surprise of the other patients in the ward. The respirations generally became deeper and less frequent, and the patients expressed themselves subjectively much relieved. The first feeling after taking the drug was one of warmth in the head; many said that they had less desire to cough, and that they found expectoration easier. Occasionally sweating occurred, and in some cases abundant salivation. No bad effects were noticed with the dose mentioned.

Dr. Penzoldt finds that the addition of quebracho solution to blood, in the presence of oxygen, makes it assume a bright red colour, and he is inclined to think that possibly the blood is rendered capable of taking up more oxygen than usual, and carrying it to the tissues. This is, however, merely a provisional hypothesis, and at present there is no satisfactory explanation of the fact that, while moderate doses of the extract alleviate dyspnoea in man, large doses cause dyspnoea in the lower animals.

As yet, quebracho bark is not a commercial product, but the wood is imported in large quantities for tanning purposes. The action of an extract of the wood is similar to that of the bark, but weaker. The alkaloid aspidodermin affects the frog, on the whole, just as the extract of the bark does.—*Med. Times and Gazette*, July 12, 1879.

Inhalation of Eucalyptus Oil.

Dr. MOSLER, of Griefswald (*Berliner Klin. Wochenschrift*, No. 21) strongly recommends oil of the leaves of eucalyptus, administered by inhalation, as a remedy for pharyngeal diphtheria. The strongest dose which he has given was according to the following formula: oil of eucalyptus leaves, 5 grammes; rectified spirit, 75 grammes; distilled water, 170 grammes; to be shaken together and used for ten inhalations. In this dose the medicine was inhaled four times daily, for ten or fifteen minutes each time, by a patient suffering from bronchitis and chronic laryngitis; it produced no troublesome effect, but acted as a powerful expectorant. Another formula employed by him was: oil of eucalyptus leaves, 2 grammes; rectified spirit, 20 grammes; distilled water, 180 grammes; for ten inhalations. This was given with the best effect in a case of croupous pneumonia in the stage of defervescence, with residual infiltration of the right upper and middle lobes. It was inhaled four times, without any bad effect. A still weaker preparation (1.5 of eucalyptus oil, 15 of spirit of wine, and 200 of water) has been used by him in several cases of nasal and pharyngeal catarrh, and also in a case of acute pharyngitis accompanied by slight laryngitis, with good effect. Dr.

Mosler is engaged in further researches on the action of inhalation of eucalyptus oil in affections of the respiratory organs.—*British Medical Journal*, June 21, 1879.

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Mode of Action of Iron in Chloro-Anæmia.

Dr. HAYEM, in a communication to the Société de Biologie (*Rév. Méd.*, June 14), stated the results of the examinations made on a great number of patients in his service at the St. Antoine, in order to ascertain the modifications which the blood undergoes under the influence of the treatment by ferruginous substances. He chose chloro-anæmia as a type of chronic anæmia, this being of such frequent occurrence among the Paris workwomen that it is constantly under treatment in the hospitals. The first effect of the administration of reduced iron, or of an assimilable salt of iron, to a chloro-anæmic woman is to cause the disappearance of the alterations in the globules which constitute the anatomical lesion in anæmia. This action is always sensibly manifested, whatever may be the number of globules. In some cases of slight anæmia the number of globules is not diminished, they simply undergoing change in form; but in other more serious cases both diminution in number and alteration in form take place. In these the iron acts first by restoring the existing globules to their physiological condition, and then by facilitating the genesis of other globules. Some physiologists have maintained that the iron does not become fixed in the blood, its passage through the economy sufficing for the good effects which result from its employment. In order to appreciate the value of this opinion, Dr. Hayem, in conjunction with Prof. Regnault, undertook some experiments on the mode of action of the ferro-cyanide of potassium, which is eliminated unchanged. Several anæmic patients were submitted to its treatment for some weeks, and an amelioration was obtained from its use, as sensible as if an assimilable salt of iron had been administered. But no sooner was it discontinued than the symptoms of anæmia returned with great rapidity; and, in order that the cure should remain definite, it was necessary that the ordinary ferruginous preparations should be given after the ferro-cyanide. Everybody knows how difficult it is sometimes to get some much enfeebled chlorotic patients to take reparatory aliments, so great is their disgust for all azotized aliment, vomiting often ensuing when they attempt to eat meat. Some women live upon a little bread and salad, and the quantity of urea they eliminate is then very small—sometimes as little as from four to six grammes in the twenty-four hours. In such women treatment becomes very difficult, it being nearly impossible to reproduce appetite in them. In these cases Dr. Hayem employs a means which has furnished most excellent results, and which consists in the daily inhalation of oxygen. The appetite soon returns, the vomiting disappearing at the same time; and so well do the patients then support azotized aliments, that the four regular “portions” of the hospital diet-scale becomes insufficient. When the urine is examined, the proportion of urea is found to have considerably increased; so that after continuing the inhalations for six weeks, the amount excreted may reach as high as thirty grammes in the twenty-four hours. The number of globules is at the same time increased, but they remain altered in form, showing that the disease is not cured. And, in fact, if after two months’ residence in the hospital such patients are allowed to go out without anything more having been done for them, at the end of a week they fall into as complete a state of anæmia as if they had never undergone any treatment. But if, after the oxygen inhalations, a ferruginous treatment be put into force, the cure remains real and definite. It results, therefore, from Dr. Hayem’s experiments, that in order to put patients into a state for the production of physiological globules, iron must be given them.—*Med. Times and Gazette*, July 5, 1879.